

Nipa Doshi

1971 Born into a Gujarati family in Bombay.

1989 At 17, Nipa was offered a place at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, where she specialised in Furniture. Nipa graduated from NID in 1994.

'Design' unless it was 'fashion' or 'interior decoration' was still unheard of as a serious career path to follow in India. Her parents, however were very supportive and encouraged her to follow her instincts. It was at NID in Ahmedabad that Nipa developed a deep appreciation of Indian handicrafts, especially textiles and it was at the market within the walls of the old city where she began to explore the link between craft, design and cultural identity.

1994 On a visit to London, Nipa met Jasper Morrison who inspired her to apply for the Masters Degree course in Furniture design at the Royal College of Art.

1995 Nipa was awarded a scholarship covering the fees and living expenses for the duration of her course at RCA.

1997 Nipa Graduated from the RCA and returned to India to work with crafts people.

1998 Nipa returned to London and worked for SCP and David Chipperfield.

Jonathan Levien

1972 Born in Elgin, Scotland.

1988 At 16 Jonathan went to cabinet making college and then onto do his BA design degree at Bucks College in High Wycombe.

1995 Jonathan joined the Royal college of Art to do his MA course in furniture design where he met Nipa.

1997 Graduated from the RCA and designed cutlery for Dansk in New York.

1997 Ross Lovegrove's studio in London for three years.

Doshi Levien Design Office

Synoptic Biography.

Doshi Levien is a London based design office led by Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi. Nipa and Jonathan bring together two distinct and complementary approaches to their work. While Nipa's work is strongly influenced by Indian visual and material culture, Jonathan's approach is rooted in design for industrial production. Together, their work celebrates the cultural hybrid and explores the synthesis between technology, story telling, industrial design and craftsmanship. Doshi Levien was established in 2000 and their work includes installation design for the Wellcome Trust, interaction design for Intel, insight and design direction for Nokia, product design for Tefal, furniture design for Moroso and bespoke shoes for London based "aristo" bootmakers, John Lobb.

2000 Nipa and Jonathan marry and set up Doshi Levien. A commission from Tom Dixon, creative director of 'Habitat' kick starts their studio.

2001 Nipa and Jonathan write to Tefal following a research trip to India in 2000. They propose a project to design cookware specifically for local food cultures. This project sets the blueprint for their approach as a studio, to explore the cultural hybrid in design.

2004 Invited by the Wellcome Trust to create a series of three window installations each lasting 4 months. The installations communicated the history and current objectives of the Trust to the general public.

2005 Installation for the British Council exhibition: My World. "The new subjectivity in design." Elements of this work are later on developed for Moroso in 2007.

2006 Approached by Herman Miller to create concepts for a new office landscape.

2007 Commissioned by Moroso to develop a collection of daybeds for Salone del Mobile 2007. This work was based on Doshi Levien's installation for Experimenta in 2005. The Charpoy range marries the fine hand workmanship in Gujarat, India, with industrial production of Italy; A 'union of opposites' that becomes a defining character of Doshi Levien's approach.

2007 Doshi Levien are awarded generous grant from the Arts Council of England to develop four pairs of shoes with John Lobb, Her Majesty's bootmaker on St James St in London. The project is called Apprentice and brings together fine craftsmanship and design, tradition and modernity.

2007 Movado The Cooper Hewitt design museum in New York inaugurate their "Quick Takes" exhibition series with the Moroso 'Charpoy' range. This work is short listed and wins a Movado Future Legend award that celebrates exceptional talent in the creative arts.

2008 "My Beautiful Backside" sofa range and "Principessa" day beds are launched at Salone Del Mobile.

2008 Silvera and Moroso invite Doshi Levien to create an installation for Designer's Days in Paris. Nipa and Jonathan create "Myth and Material". Through an irreverent and spontaneous use of colours and materials, Doshi Levien's installation explores and describes the influence that Indian culture has on their designs. 'Myth and Material' looks at the many aspects of India's multilayered modern culture and emphasises, in a very natural way, how opposites coexist harmoniously: sensuousness with the spiritual and austere; functionality with creativity and imagination.

2008 "My World", an installation created in 2005 for the Lisbon Design Biennale is invited to Paris by Mouvements Modernes for the Fiac Art fair.

2008 "Myth and Material" travels to Moroso's New York showroom.

Publications:

Blueprint Magazine October 2003
Opposites Attract.

Elle Decoration October 2003
Young British Designers

POL Oxygen Issue 6
What's Cooking?

Independent Magazine Saturday 3rd January 2004
Bright Young Things.

Blueprint Magazine November 2004
A Healthy Dose of Sparkle.

Interni April 2005
United Kingdom of India.

Blueprint Magazine June 2005
The Blueprint Sessions

Frame Issue 43 2005
The Picture of Health.

The World of Interiors September 2005
Function and Fantasy.

Icon issue 028 October 2005
London is another country.

Wallpaper March 2006

Made for India: tired of second best from the west, Indian design is finding its own identity. By Nipa Doshi.

Frame issue 48 Jan/Feb 2006

"Their World."

Book by Ilse Crawford published by Rizzoli

Home is where the heart is?

Damn Issue 12 July/Aug 2007

Best of both worlds.

Casamica Sept 2007

Glocal style. Cover story.

ID Magazine Sept/Oct 2007

No rest for the worldly. Cover story.

Frame Sept/ Oct 2007

A plural approach.

Design Indaba/ Q4 07

1+1 makes 3

Vogue India/ March 2008

Redesigning India

Casa and Design China/ 2008

Ethnic Internationalism

Architecture Und Wohnen - 3/ 2008

Objekte mit zwei Seelen.

Wallpaper/ May 2008

Beat the Clock.

Icon issue 63/ Sept 2008

Looking into the future for Intel

Awards:

2003 FX Design Award

Tefal Mosaic wins "best furnishing or accessory for residential interiors".

2005 Blueprint Magazine.

Voted "Blueprint Sessions product designer of the year 2005."

2005 Arts Council Of England

Generous award to produce work for the British Council exhibition "My World"

2005 B & B Italia

Award to produce work for the British Council exhibition "My World"

2007 Wallpaper

Best breakthrough designer.

2007 Arts Council of England.

Generous award to develop four pairs of shoes with John Lobb, Her Majesty's bootmaker.

2007 Movado

Future Legend Award.

2009 Wallpaper

Best Domestic design: 'My Beautiful Backside' sofa.

Talks and Exhibitions:

2004 Government of India Design Summit, New Delhi:-

Nipa Doshi gave a presentation on “Cultural Capital as a resource for innovation in design.”

2004 British Council exhibition “Global Local”

Touring exhibition and seminar. Doshi Levien gave a talk on “cultural identity in industrial design”. Doshi Levien featured alongside a selection of designers whose work applies an international sensibility, developed through research and global travel, to the local context in which they work. This exhibition was hosted by the Victoria and Albert museum after completing a tour of India.

2005 Pecha Kucha nights.

The Japanese term 'Pecha Kucha' roughly translates as 'chit-chat.' Up to fourteen participants get to show 20 slides for 20 seconds each.

2005 Experimenta design Biennale, Lisbon.

Installation commissioned by the British Council.

“My World: The new subjectivity in design.”

This installation visited: Vilnius, Oslo, the London Design Museum and New York.

2005 Materialise Forum. Royal College of Art, London.

Perception of materials in industrial design.

2006 Franz Meyer Museum, Mexico City

Design and identity in emerging economies.

2006 ArtQuest Intersection

Approaching collaborative practice.

2006 Doga Norsk Form, Norway

The new subjectivity in Design

2007 Cooper Hewitt Museum.

Unity of opposites: showcasing Charpoy range of daybeds for Moroso.

2007 100% Design London.

Best Of European Design. Conversation with Jaime Hayon, Louise Campbell Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi. Chaired by Caroline Roux, writer, curator and journalist.

2008 Design Indaba

Doshi Levien joined creative professionals from across the world to speak at the Design Indaba conference, attended by 2,000 people.

2008 IIDA New York: Pioneering Design series

Doshi Levien invited to give a lecture at Parson's school of Design as part of IIDA's design Pioneer series.

2009 IMM Cologne: Trend Lecture series

Presentation on form and shape.

